

Claims

I claim:

1. (currently amended) A unitary connector that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting a roof to a wall, comprising:

- 8,
- a. a base web;
 - b. offset, angled, blocking webs, each having a generally right angled bend forming a rafter tab;
 - c. said base web and each said blocking web connected by an offset web;
 - d. said offset web having ~~an~~ a first acute angled bend attached to said base web and ~~another~~ a second, unequal, acute angled bend attached to said blocking ~~web~~ webs.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web having a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, with a plurality of nail holes for attachment to an exterior wall[,] and into underlying structural members.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1 wherein said offset web connected to said base web by [[a]] said first ~~generally horizontal~~ bend bent at an acute angle.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim [[3]] 1 wherein said offset web connected to said blocking ~~web~~ webs by [[a]] said second ~~generally horizontal~~ bend bent at an acute angle.

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim [[[4]]] 1 wherein said first and said second angled bends, attached to opposite ends of said offset web, having generally unequal, acute bends in opposite directions, thereby offsetting said blocking ~~web~~ webs at an acute angle from said base web, thereby and avoiding frieze boards ~~and or~~ blocking on a house.

6. (currently amended) [[Moved to between claims 8 and 9.]] →

7. (currently amended)The connector of claim 1 wherein said blocking web webs having said generally right angle bends dividing said blocking web webs into generally equal left and right blocking webs.

8. (currently amended)The connector of claim [[[7]]] 1 wherein ~~said right angle bends form~~ rafter tabs[[,]] ~~off each said left and right blocking web, that~~ are generally rectangular, vertical, parallel, and ~~having~~ have a plurality of nail holes for attachment to the opposite sides of ~~said a~~ roof rafter.

Ε 6. (currently amended)The connector of claim [[5]] 1 wherein said first and said second acute bends and said offset web forming said base web and said blocking web unparallel to each other, thereby forming a buttress between [[a]] said roof rafter of said roof, and said wall with, and underlying structural members, thereby preventing said exterior wall from detaching from said roof rafter.

9. (currently amended)The connector of claim [[7]] 1 wherein said ~~connector having an~~ offset web, and said first and second acute angles[[,]] ~~thereby placing place~~ said blocking webs generally parallel to frieze boards ~~and or~~ blocking on said house, and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes for attachment onto said frieze boards ~~and or~~ blocking.

10. (currently amended)The connector of claim 1 wherein said ~~base web, said rafter tabs, and said blocking webs having~~ attaching means to the outside wall and underlying top plate, the roof rafter, and the frieze boards or blocking respectively, on an existing house, thereby for securing together ~~an the exterior wall and underlying structural members, to a roof, rafter, and frieze boards and blocking,~~ thereby preventing uplift and lateral movement from a hurricane and earthquake wind and seismic events.

11-14. (canceled)

11 15. (currently amended, but previously allowed) An apparatus that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting the top of a roof to a wall, comprising:

- Σ,
- a. a base plate;
 - b. offset, angled, blocking tabs, each having a generally right angled bend forming a rafter tab;
 - c. ~~Each~~ each said rafter tab having a strengthening tab attached at a generally right angle bend;
 - d. ~~Each~~ each said blocking tab having a sheathing tab attached at a generally right angled bend;
 - e. said base plate and each said blocking tab connected by an offset tab;
 - f. said offset tab having a first acute angled bend attached to said base plate and a second acute angled bend attached to said blocking tabs.
 - g. a roof plate.

12 16. (currently amended, but previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first and said second angled bends, attached to opposite ends of said offset tab, having generally unequal, acute bends in opposite directions, thereby offsetting said blocking tabs at an acute angle from said base plate, thereby avoiding frieze boards and or blocking on a house.

13 17. (currently amended, but previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first and said second acute bends and said offset tab forming said base plate and said blocking tabs unparallel to each other forming a buttress between a rafter of said roof rafter [[,]] and said wall, and with underlying structural members, thereby preventing said exterior wall from detaching from said roof rafter.

14 18. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said blocking tabs having said generally right angle bends dividing said blocking tabs into left and right blocking tabs.

15. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said right angle bends form rafter tabs, off each said left and right blocking tab, that are generally vertical, parallel, and having a plurality of nail holes for attachment to the sides of said roof rafter.

16. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said apparatus having an offset tab, and acute angles, thereby placing said blocking tabs generally parallel to frieze boards and blocking on said house, and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes for attachment onto said frieze boards and blocking.

17. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said sheathing tab and said strengthening tab on the left side folded on top of each other, and said sheathing tab and said strengthening tab on the right side folded on top of each other, thereby forming double thickness with each side having a bolt hole.

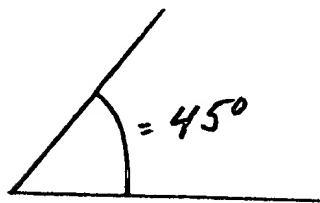
18. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein each said double thick strengthening tab and sheathing tab bent generally perpendicular to said blocking tabs and generally bent perpendicular to said rafter tabs, thereby placing said strengthening tabs and sheathing tabs on either side of said rafter and generally parallel to the roof.

19. (previously allowed) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said apparatus connected to said roof plate, on top of said roof, by a bolt on either side of said rafter that pierce through bolt holes on said roof plate, through pre-drilled holes in said roof, and into each said bolt hole on said double thickness sheathing tab and strengthening tab, thereby tying the roof securely to the wall, preventing wind and seismic damage to the house.

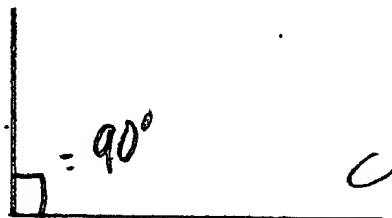
Geometric

starting point, lines are together

A



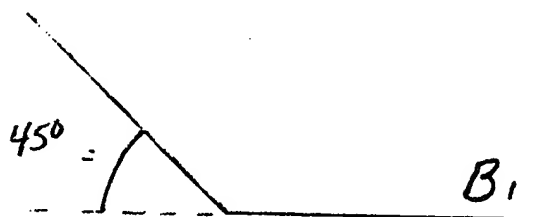
B



Sheet Metal

starting point lines are end to end #19

A₁



B₁

